

and honor the strengths they have added to our national character.

In tribute to all Irish Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 103-379, has designated March 1996 as "Irish-American Heritage Month" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this month.

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 1996 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:12 a.m., March 4, 1996]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on March 5.

### **Proclamation 6869—Save Your Vision Week, 1996**

*March 1, 1996*

*By the President of the United States of America*

#### **A Proclamation**

Vision is a remarkable gift. Our eyes allow us to read, to see the faces of our loved ones, and to experience many of life's greatest pleasures. Too often, we take our sight for granted and must be reminded that our eyes require regular care and attention. The more we learn about preventing eye disease and vision loss, the better equipped we will be to take care of these vital organs.

Many young people suffer from vision-related learning disabilities that jeopardize their academic success. However, with early intervention, such sight problems are often easily correctable. Senior citizens, too, are

particularly vulnerable to eye difficulties, but we are fortunate that advances in medical research are improving our understanding of the diseases that often rob older Americans of their sight.

As a result of these new technologies and discoveries in the field of eye care, many diseases that would have caused permanent sight loss just decades ago can now be treated with excellent prospects for full recovery. For example, people with diabetes can reduce their risk of blindness with timely laser surgery, the effects of glaucoma can often be prevented, and studies are exploring the role of vitamins and minerals in slowing the progression of age-related macular degeneration and cataract.

To educate people about these strides and to encourage all Americans to protect their precious eyesight, the Congress, by joint resolution approved December 30, 1963 (77 Stat. 629; 36 U.S.C. 169a), has authorized and requested the President to proclaim the first week in March of each year as "Save Your Vision Week."

**Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton,** President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim March 3 through March 9, 1996, as Save Your Vision Week. I urge all the people of the United States to participate in this observance by making eye care and eye safety a priority and to recognize the important contributions that vision research makes to our lives. I invite eye care professionals, the media, and all public and private organizations committed to the goal of sight preservation to join in activities that educate our citizens about the simple steps they can take to save their vision.

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twentieth.

**William J. Clinton**

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**Memorandum on Narcotics  
Producing and Transit Countries**

*March 1, 1996*

Presidential Determination No. 96-13

*Memorandum for the Secretary of State*

*Subject:* Certification for Major Narcotics  
Producing and Transit Countries

By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 490(b)(1)(A) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, ("the Act"), I hereby determine and certify that the following major drug producing and/or major drug transit countries/territories have co-operated fully with the United States, or taken adequate steps on their own, to achieve full compliance with the goals and objectives of the 1988 United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances:

The Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Taiwan, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by section 490(b)(1)(B) of the Act, I hereby determine that it is in the vital national interests of the United States to certify the following countries:

Lebanon, Pakistan, and Paraguay.

Information on these countries, as required under section 490(b)(3) of the Act, is attached.

I have determined that the following major producing and/or major transit countries do not meet the standards set forth in section 490(b):

Afghanistan, Burma, Colombia, Iran, Nigeria, and Syria.

I have made these determinations, taking into account the factors set forth in section 490 of the Act and based on the information contained in the International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of 1996. Because the performance of these countries varies, I have attached an explanatory statement in each case.

You are hereby authorized and directed to report this determination to the Congress im-

mediately and to publish it in the *Federal Register*.

**William J. Clinton**

**Message on the Observance of Saint  
Patrick's Day, 1996**

*March 1, 1996*

Warmest greetings to everyone celebrating Saint Patrick's Day.

On this feast day of the patron saint of Ireland, we remember with gratitude the gifts of the Irish people. For generations, the sons and daughters of Ireland have come to America seeking a new life and a new freedom, bringing with them a deep faith in God, a profound love of liberty, and a determination to help shape the American Dream.

As soldiers and scholars, poets and Presidents, Irish Americans have enriched every facet of American society. Today we honor their many accomplishments, their vital contributions in building the cities, industries, and culture of America, and the long friendship and close ties between the United States and Ireland.

Like millions of Americans, I rejoice in my Irish heritage; and like millions of Americans, I pray for lasting peace in the land of our ancestors. We must not permit the process of reconciliation in Northern Ireland to be destroyed by those who are blinded by the hatreds of the past. As we pay tribute to Saint Patrick's enduring message of faith and courage, I salute the people of Ireland for their devotion to defeating the enemies of peace. In this age of hope and possibility, I am confident that their steadfast efforts will be rewarded with lasting tranquility and the blessings of a bright future.

Best wishes to all for a wonderful holiday.

**Bill Clinton**

**Statement on the Food and Drug  
Administration Approval of an  
HIV/AIDS Drug**

*March 1, 1996*

Our national investment in AIDS research is paying off. Among scientists, as among many people living with HIV, despair is giv-